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February 26, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FORMER KOKOMO RESIDENT CHARGED WITH
THEFT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ROSS BACH, 55, formerly of Kokomo, Indiana and presently residing in Oregon, Wisconsin, was charged today with theft of government funds, following an investigation by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General.

The information alleges that BACH, who lived in Kokomo when the alleged scheme began, fraudulently received and spent VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits intended for his mother after her death on August 11, 1998. He allegedly did this through his deceased mother's checking account, which served as the depository of the benefit payments between August 1998 and November 2001. By these means he allegedly received

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approximately \$42,876. His mother was the widow of a deceased veteran of the United States Navy.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. DeBrotta, who is prosecuting the case for the government, BACH faces a maximum possible prison sentence of up to 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

The information is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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